

February 17, 2017

Appropriations Committee
Testimony Governor's Bill HB-7027
Public Hearing

Sen Paul Formica
Sen Cathy Osten
Members of the Committee:

HB-7027 is a bill concerning the State budget and includes an increase for pistol permit fees. I'm alarmed at the Governor's attempt to raise the pistol permit fees from \$70.00 to \$300.00. It appears to me to be another veiled attempt to impede law abiding citizens from legally carrying a handgun. The Governor and his Director of OPM have a long history of 'such attacks' on sportsmen. Over the last three biennial budgets offered by Governor Malloy, the fish hatchery program and the pheasant stocking program have each been 'attacked' twice. . . and these programs are fully funded by Conn Sportsmen thru their license, permits and stamp fee purchases.

I am a second amendment supporter and long time CT gun permit holder. I feel this fee increase is totally unreasonable and only serves to further attack law abiding citizens exercising their second amendment rights. It is an attempt to single out law abiding citizens and punish them for following the rules. As it is, Connecticut pistol permit fees are already triple the national average .

I urge that you OPPOSE HB 7027 Section 48 (T1854) and Section 58 (T1938) which includes the Governor's proposed pistol permit rate hike.

I realize that action must be taken to try to contain the runaway state spending but unreasonable increases in permit fees/taxes are not the way to accomplish a reduction in spending and bringing balance to the State of Connecticut's budgetary woes.

I URGE YOU TO OPPOSE any more attacks on the citizens who value their second amendment rights and who carry pistols or other firearms in accordance with the current laws of this state.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Tolhurst
Marlborough, CT